



STATE OF LOUISIANA

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

**LOUISIANA BOARD
OF ETHICS**

*** DOCKET NO.**

IN THE MATTER OF

BRYAN JACKSON

AGENCY TRACKING NO. 2016-667

CHARGES

The Louisiana Board of Ethics voted on August 17, 2017, to and does hereby file the following charges:

I.

The Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) was created as a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana pursuant to La. R.S. 40:600, the Louisiana Housing Corporation Act. The LHC administers state and federal funds through programs designed to advance the development of energy efficient, affordable housing for low income families.

II.

Bryan Jackson was hired by the LHC as a "Finance Specialist" on November 5, 2014 and served in this position at all times pertinent herein. He was terminated from his employment on June 10, 2015.

III.

As a "Finance Specialist" for the LHC, Bryan Jackson's job duties included, but were not limited to, overseeing the housing units to ensure their compliance with state and federal housing regulations.

IV.

During Bryan Jackson's employment with the LHC, he was a public servant as defined in La. R.S. 42:1102(19), which provides that a "public servant" means a public employee or an elected official.

V.

Bryan Jackson is a partner in *JR Property Management*, which is a registered Louisiana Partnership between Bryan Jackson and Lawrence Smith, domiciled in Rayville, Louisiana.

VI.

The Lafayette Neighborhoods' Economic Development Corporation is a Louisiana non-profit corporation formed in 1982 and domiciled in Lafayette, Louisiana, which owns and operates the Evangeline Apartments.

VII.

The Evangeline Apartments, located in downtown Lafayette, Louisiana, are leased to eligible low income lessees. Evangeline Apartments entered into a Tax Credit Regulatory agreement with the LHC. As part of this agreement, the LHC conducts compliance monitoring to ensure the apartments provide a safe and habitable environment for the lessees.

VIII.

As part of Bryan Jackson's official job duties as an LHC employee, he was assigned to review the Evangeline Apartments and report to the LHC whether the Evangeline Apartments passed the requirements to be leased to tenants under its agreement with the LHC.

IX.

Russell Castille, President of the Board of Directors of the Evangeline Apartments, was contacted by Bryan Jackson in early 2015 to conduct a compliance review for the LHC. During the initial meeting in February of 2015, Bryan Jackson told Mr. Castille that, in its current state, the Evangeline Apartments would not pass the LHC inspection. Bryan Jackson then convinced Mr. Castille to hire *JR Property Management* to manage and operate the Evangeline Apartments. Bryan Jackson assured Mr. Castille that, if he hired *JR Property management*, the Evangeline Apartments would remain in compliance with the LHC.

X.

The property management contract between *JR Property Management* and the Lafayette Neighborhoods' Economic Development Corporation d/b/a Evangeline Apartments was signed on March 1, 2015.

XI.

While employed with LHC, Bryan Jackson received multiple payments from the Lafayette Neighborhoods' Economic Development Corporation d/b/a Evangeline Apartments for services rendered to the Evangeline Apartments totaling approximately \$30,118.87.

XII.

Three days after signing the property management contract between *JR Property Management* and Lafayette Neighborhoods' Economic Development Corporation d/b/a Evangeline Apartments, Bryan Jackson reported to the LHC that Evangeline Apartments had no compliance issues.

XIII.

The Code of Governmental Ethics provides the following:

La. R.S. 42:1111C(1)(a) prohibits a public servant from receiving any thing of economic value for any service, the subject matter of which is devoted substantially to the responsibilities, programs, or operations of the agency of the public servant and in which the public servant has participated.

La. R.S. 42:1112A prohibits a public servant, except as provided in R.S. 42:1120, from participating in a transaction in which he has a personal substantial economic interest of which he may be reasonably expected to know involving the governmental entity.

La. R.S. 42:1112B(3) prohibits a public servant, except as provided in R.S. 42:1120, from participating in a transaction involving the governmental entity in which, to his actual knowledge, any person of which he is an officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee has a substantial economic interest.

La. R.S. 42:1116A prohibits a public servant from using the authority of his office or position, directly or indirectly, in a manner intended to compel or coerce any person or other public servant to provide himself, any other public servant, or other person with anything of economic value. This Subsection shall not be construed to limit that authority authorized by law, statute, ordinance, or legislative rule in carrying out official duties.

XIV.

Based on the foregoing facts, Bryan Jackson violated La. R.S. 42:1111C(1)(a) by receiving compensation for providing services to Lafayette Neighborhoods' Economic Development Corporation for the Evangeline Apartments, which services are the subject matter of which is devoted substantially to the responsibilities, programs, or operations of his public agency, the LHC, and in which he has participated as an employee of LHC.

XV.

Based on the foregoing facts, Bryan Jackson violated La. R.S. 42:1112A by participating, in his capacity as an employee of LHC, in the compliance review of the Evangeline Apartments

at a time when he had a substantial economic interest by virtue of his provision of property management services to the Lafayette Neighborhoods' Economic Development Corporation for the Evangeline Apartments.

XVI.

Based on the foregoing facts, Bryan Jackson violated La. R.S. 42:1112B(3) by participating, in his capacity as an employee of LHC, in the compliance review of the Evangeline Apartments while his business, JR Property Management, had a substantial economic interest through its contract to provide property management services to the Lafayette Neighborhoods' Economic Development Corporation for the Evangeline Apartments.

XVII.

Based on the foregoing facts, Bryan Jackson violated La. R.S. 42:1116A by using his position as a Finance Specialist with the LHC to compel Russell Castille to enter into the property management contract between *JR Property Management* and the Lafayette Neighborhoods' Economic Development Corporation.

XVIII.

In accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141C(3)(b)(iv), the Board designates Suzanne Quinlan Mooney and Tracy Barker as the Board's trial attorneys in this matter.

WHEREFORE, the Louisiana Board of Ethics requests that the Ethics Adjudicatory Board (a) conduct a hearing on the foregoing charges; (b) determine that Bryan Jackson violated La. R.S. 42:1111C(1)(a), La. R.S. 42:1112A, La. R.S. 42:1112B(3), and La. R.S. 42:1116A with

respect to the foregoing counts; and (c) assess appropriate penalties in accordance with the recommendation of the Louisiana Board of Ethics to be submitted at the hearing.

[SIGNATURE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE]



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CERTIFICATE:

I hereby certify that a copy of this document has been forwarded to the Respondent by registered/certified mail in accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141E(1)(a), on this 23 day of August, 2017.



Suzanne Quinlan Mooney
Trial Attorney

SERVICE INFORMATION:

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